

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia
in Sydney
September 7, 2007

President Putin. First of all, I would like to say that I am very glad to have this opportunity to meet with the U.S. President within the framework of the APEC summit.

In the meeting we had today, I started with the words of gratitude for this fantastic and warm welcome which we enjoyed during our visit to Kennebunkport recently.

We have managed to cover all the matters on our bilateral agenda and the key international aspects too. First of all, about the missile defense, we have once again said that it is necessary that our experts meet again very soon and make another trip to Azerbaijan to the Gabala radio location station. By saying this, we confirm that the process of our joint work on this—in this direction is underway.

We also discussed the—Russia's WTO accession plans. We hope that this work will end up with positive results and these endeavors will be continued on the expert level too.

We also discussed the Iranian nuclear issue. And I would like to say that Russia intends and is prepared to continue this work with our partners and colleagues within the framework of the IAEA and the United Nations. And I hope that a solution will be found for the benefits of the international community in general and the benefits of Iranian people in particular.

We also covered our economic relations. We discussed some particular large-scale economic projects, the implementation of which is to the interests of the business communities on both sides, in the U.S. and in Russia.

And we also discussed the environmental issues of—in particular in connection with the forthcoming APEC summit. I should

tell you that we have very close positions on these matters.

I would like to thank my colleague, the President of the United States, for a very constructive and open dialog, which we enjoyed today.

This gives me every hope to believe that further on the relations between the countries will continue to develop in the same positive mood.

Thank you.

President Bush. Vladimir, thanks. For a minute, I thought he brought up the Kennebunkport visit to remind me that he was the only one who caught the fish. But in fact, it was our—my family's great pleasure to welcome my friend the President of Russia to mother and dad's home.

I have nothing much more to add than what Vladimir said. We did discuss a variety of issues that are of importance to our respective countries, and I found the conversation to be cordial and constructive. We are results-oriented people. We want to help solve problems. And we recognize that we can do better solving problems when we work together.

So I appreciate your time, appreciate your friendship, and appreciate the chance to dialog on important matters.

President Putin. And we also agreed that we will enjoy fishing not only in the United States but somewhere in Siberia very soon.

President Bush. Yes, sir. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:51 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel at Circular Quay. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Statement on the Death of D. James Kennedy September 7, 2007

Dr. D. James Kennedy was a man of great vision, faith, and integrity. Under his leadership, Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church of Florida developed from a small group of worshipers in an elementary school cafeteria into one of America's most prominent congregations. Dr. Kennedy's message of love and hope inspired millions of Americans and others worldwide through the institutions he founded, including Coral Ridge Ministries, Knox Theological Semi-

nary, and Westminster Academy. He was also a student of history and successful author who encouraged Americans of faith to exercise their democratic freedoms and put their values into practice. His legacy of grace and personal humility will continue to influence hearts and lives.

Laura and I pray for Anne, his wife of over 50 years, and the rest of the Kennedy family.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan in Sydney, Australia September 8, 2007

President Bush. Shinzo, thank you for your time. I not only had breakfast with my friend, I just had a very constructive bilateral discussion on a variety of issues. We, of course, discussed concern about climate change, our regional concerns. We talked about energy security. We talked about Iran.

But mostly, I want to thank the Prime Minister, his Government, and the Japanese people for their contribution in the war against terror. The role that Japan plays in this fight is a vital role, and it's a necessary role. Japan provides a vital service not only to the United States but to other countries as a refueler of our ships. And I thank you for that, Mr. Prime Minister, and I thank the Japanese people for that as well.

The fact that we're in a war against extremists was heightened today by the release of a tape. The tape is a reminder about the dangerous world in which we live, and it is a reminder that we must work together to protect our people against

these extremists who murder the innocent in order to achieve their political objectives.

I found it interesting that on the tape, Iraq was mentioned, which is a reminder that Iraq is a part of this war against extremists. If Al Qaida bothers to mention Iraq, it's because they're—they want to achieve their objectives in Iraq, which is to drive us out and to develop a safe haven. And the reason they want a safe haven is to launch attacks against America or any other ally. And therefore, it's important that we show resolve and determination to protect ourselves, to deny Al Qaida safe haven, and to support young democracies, which will be a major defeat to their ambitions.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for being here. I'm proud to call you friend.

Prime Minister Abe. I'm very happy that we were able to have a very nice meeting today, George. Following on to the trilateral breakfast that we had among three countries, Japan, Australia, and the United States, together, the two of us were able